

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 099058 TOSEC 040128
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 AF-10 EUR-12 SSO-00 CCO-00
PM-05 SP-02 INR-10 INRE-00 /069 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA-WSSMITH/AF/E:RPOST:DMK:DPB
APPROVED BY P-MR. NEWSOM
ARA-TERENCE A. TODMAN
AF-WILLIAM HARROP
EUR/SOV-MR. MCCALL
S/S-O SVALERGA
S/S - PETER TARNOFF

-----063624 181951Z /53

O 181922Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 099058 TOSEC 040128

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS) CU, UR, US, AF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ENCOUNTER WITH CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: HAVANA 0973

1. WE DO NOT SUGGEST YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO MEET WITH
CUBANS, GIVEN HEAVY DEMANDS ON YOUR TIME IN MOSCOW AND FACT
THERE ARE OTHER VENUES WHERE CUBANS CAN SEEK US OUT. IF
SOVIETS AND CUBANS HAVE DECIDED TO SEEK MEETING BETWEEN YOU
AND MALMIERCA, IT IS LIKELY TO BE FOR PURPOSE OF HAVING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 099058 TOSEC 040128

LATER REITERATE CUBAN STATEMENTS TO US THAT THEY PREFER A
POLITICAL SOLUTION IN ERITREA AND DO NOT RPT NOT WISH
TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING. TONE ON
CUBAN SIDE IS LIKELY TO BE CONCILIATORY, THOUGH BASICALLY
UNYIELDING.

2. IF MEETING SHOULD COME ABOUT, WE BELIEVE THAT, IN

GENERAL, BEST RESPONSE IS TO PRESS CUBANS FOR EVIDENCE OF WHAT THEY ARE DOING, IF ANYTHING, TO ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS, EITHER IN THE HORN, IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, OR IN ANGOLA, AND TO URGE TROOP REDUCTIONS.

3. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS ARE PROVIDED BELOW:

-- US IS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED THAT CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN AFRICA CONTINUE AND EXPAND. THIS CUBAN ACTIVITY HAS BECOME A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ANY FURTHER REAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IMPROVEMENT TO WHICH WE HAD LOOKED FORWARD AFTER SO MANY YEARS.

-- MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THE CURRENT CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA IS FUNDAMENTALLY DISRUPTIVE OF WHAT SHOULD BE NORMAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THERE AND EVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FABRIC OF PEACE IN THE WORLD.

-- WE ARE CONVINCED THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES. WE HAD HOPED THE CUBANS AGREED; WE HAD FURTHER HOPED TO SEE CUBAN RESTRAINT AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS IN AFRICA.

-- INSTEAD, IT SEEMS CUBA IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 099058 TOSEC 040128

PRESSING FOR THE RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS THROUGH THE FORCE OF ARMS -- PARTICULARLY ARMS AND MEN FROM OUTSIDE AFRICA. WHETHER INVITED OR NOT, THIS CONTINUED ACTIVITY BY MAJOR OUTSIDE MILITARY FORCES NOT ONLY INCREASES BLOODSHED BUT ALSO RISKS ESCALATING INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER OUTSIDERS.

-- WE HAVE SEEN ONLY INCREASES AND A GROWING CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE. IN ETHIOPIA, WE UNDERSTOOD CUBA'S ORIGINAL POSITION TO BE THAT ITS SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. YET, EVEN THOUGH THE SOMALIS HAVE WITHDRAWN, THERE ARE MORE CUBAN TROOPS THAN BEFORE. WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE 16,000 CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA? IF THEIR MISSION WERE TO EXPEL INVASION, IT IS ACCOMPLISHED; WHY THEN ARE THERE NO REDUCTIONS?

-- THERE IS NO INVADING FORCE IN ERITREA, NOR ARE THERE ANY FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE ERITREANS. WE ACCORDINGLY SEE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR A CUBAN COMBAT ROLE THERE.

-- WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE CUBANS, IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS, WOULD SEE THE WISDOM OF STAYING OUT OF THE ERITREAN CONFLICT, THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN WHICH COULD CAST A PALL NOT ONLY ON THEIR RELATIONS WITH US AND

WITH WESTERN EUROPEANS, BUT ALSO EVEN ON RELATIONS WITH PROGRESSIVE ARAB STATES WHO SUPPORT THE ERITREANS.

-- WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE ERITREAN SITUATION IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE ETHIOPIANS AND THE ERITREANS.

WE BELIEVE THAT COUNTRIES HAVING SPECIAL ACCESS TO EITHER SIDE OF THE DISPUTE, SUCH AS CUBA HAS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 099058 TOSEC 040128

WITH ETHIOPIA, SHOULD BE URGING NEGOTIATION AND NOT, BY PROVIDING MILITARY SUPPORT INCLUDING COMBAT PERSONNEL, ENCOURAGING CONTINUED BLOODSHED.

-- CUBANS SAY THEY DO NOT WISH TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING IN ERITREA AND PREFER A POLITICAL SOLUTION, BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO ENCOURAGE SUCH SOLUTION? WHAT PROPOSALS HAVE THEY PUT FORWARD, IF ANY? WHAT WE SEE ARE TROOP MOVEMENTS, NOT EFFORTS TOWARD COMPROMISE. IF THEIR PROTESTATIONS ARE SINCERE, WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE OF SUCH AN INTENT?

-- IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE, THE BRITISH AND MANY OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES ARE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT BLACK MAJORITY RULE THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. THE CUBANS SAY THAT IS THEIR OBJECTIVE AS WELL. BUT THREAT OF INTRODUCING CUBAN TROOPS ONLY FURTHER COMPLICATES ISSUES AND MAKES SOLUTIONS MORE DIFFICULT. WHAT ARE CUBANS DOING TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS? IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS IN ERITREA, THEY SPEAK OF SUCH SETTLEMENTS, BUT WHAT WE SEE IS THREAT OF EXTERNAL FORCE AND MORE BLOODSHED.

CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, BRIEFING MATERIALS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE099058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WSSMITH/AF/E:RPOST:DMK:DPB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-0385
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780443/aaaabkrq.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 997d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 HAVANA 973
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2929125
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ENCOUNTER WITH CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, CU, UR, US, AF, XA, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (MALMIERCA PEOLI, ISIDORO OCTAVIO)
To: SECRETARY MOSCOW MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/997d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014